

provided to database 210 by polling data from Internet 23. More particularly, web information 46 comprises consumable part numbers, alternative consumable part numbers, and information for selecting a reseller. Users 48 each use a PC 12 to communicate on a one-to-one relation bi-directionally with computer peripheral devices 14, 114, and 214. As was the case with the environment depicted in Figure 3, computer peripheral device 14 comprises a printer having an embedded web server. Computer peripheral device 114 comprises a Legacy printer. Furthermore, computer peripheral device 214 comprises a multi-function peripheral (MFP) having an embedded web server.

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In the Claims:

No claims have been cancelled or added.

Claim 10 has been amended.

The following is a clean version of the entire set of pending claims.

- 1 1. A consumable order assistance system for computer peripheral
2 devices, comprising:
3 a personal computer having a web browser and a messaging system;
4 at least one computer peripheral device having a messaging system;
5 a communication link signal coupling the personal computer with a
6 seller of a consumable for the computer peripheral device via the web browser;
7 and
8 a consumable order assistance computer program provided on the
9 personal computer and configured to receive a notification from the computer
10 peripheral device via the messaging system of a need to order a consumable,
11 alert a user of the personal computer of the notification, and provide an order
12 location to the user for the consumable.
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1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2 assistance computer program is further configured to collect a series of
3 notifications and summarize the series of notifications for one or more computer
4 peripheral devices.

1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2 assistance computer program consolidates a plurality of notifications from the at
3 least one computer peripheral device.

1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2 assistance computer program is further configured to request identification from
3 a user to verify authorization of the user to submit an order.

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1 5. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2 assistance computer program is further configured to request at least one level
3 of authorization from a user before sending an order via the communication link
4 to a reseller of the consumable.

1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2 assistance computer program is further configured to provide an electronic
3 shopping cart data list that enables electronic ordering of the consumable from
4 one of a list of resellers of the consumable.

1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein the consumable order
2 assistance computer program is further configured to prompt a customer user
3 for authorization information.

1 8. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication link
2 comprises an electronic communication link that enables the consumable order
3 assistance computer program to submit an e-mail order.

1 9. The system of claim 1 wherein the communication link
2 comprises an electronic communication link that enables the consumable order
3 assistance computer program to submit a facsimile order.

1 10. (Amended) A computer-implemented system which implements
2 a program in which consumable components of computer peripheral devices are
3 replenished, the system comprising:

4 a notification system that alerts a user of a personal computer that
5 they need to order a consumable for a computer peripheral device associated
6 with the personal computer;

7 a facilitation system that provides a communication link with a reseller
8 of the consumable; and

9 at least one from a list of a consolidation system for consolidating a
10 plurality of orders, an authorization system for confirming that a user is
11 authorized to place an order for the consumable, and an order assistance system
12 that places an order for the consumable.

1 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the notification system
2 identifies for the user a part number for a consumable that needs to be ordered
3 for the computer peripheral device.

1 12. The system of claim 10 wherein the notification system
2 comprises a messaging system within an embedded web server of a computer
3 peripheral device and a messaging system within a personal computer.

1 13. The system of claim 12 wherein the personal computer further
2 comprises a browser, and the messaging system comprises an e-mail
3 application, wherein the computer peripheral device sends an e-mail notification
4 to the personal computer to alert a user to a need to order a consumable.

1 14. The system of claim 13 wherein the e-mail notification
2 identifies the consumable by a part number.

1 15. The system of claim 10 wherein the system comprises the
2 consolidation system configured to aggregate a plurality of notifications for one
3 or more computer peripheral devices.

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1 16. The system of claim 10 wherein the system comprises the
2 authorization system configured to request authorization from a user prior to
3 automatically submitting an order for the consumable to a reseller of the
4 consumable.

1 17. The system of claim 10 wherein the system comprises the
2 order assistance system configured to automatically submit an order for the
3 consumable in response to receiving a notification that a consumable needs to
4 be ordered.

1 18. A method of providing order assistance, comprising:
2 providing a computer peripheral device, a personal computer having a
3 communication link with a reseller of a consumable, and a messaging system
4 extending between the computer peripheral device and the personal computer;
5 detecting a need to replenish a consumable at the computer peripheral
6 device;
7 notifying a user at the personal computer of the need to replenish the
8 consumable